

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant graciously appreciates the Office's attention to the instant application. Applicant had a brief telephonic conference with the Office on April 7, 2006 to clarify some comments in the Final Office Action. The Office indicated that claims 7 and 10 are allowed and that they were inadvertently mentioned in the 103 rejections. The Office referred to box 5 of the Office Action Summary, to the Response to Arguments/Amendment, and to the Conclusion, which states: "Claims 1-14 and 18-25 are allowed". Applicant respectfully requests confirmation in an Advisory Action.

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the March 6, 2006 Office Action.

As explained above, dependent claims 16 and 17 are currently amended and claims 1-25 are pending.

In the Claims

Rejection under §103(a): Claims 15-17

The Office rejected claims 15-17 as being unpatentable over Joco (USPN 4,944,660), referred to herein as the Joco reference, in view of the Norton et al. (USPN 6,164,931), referred to herein as the Norton reference.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. MPEP §2142.

While grounds for rejection of independent claim 15 are set forth in the Office Action of March 6, 2006, Applicant submits that grounds for rejection of dependent claim 16 are not stated with particularity. Thus, Applicant cannot point-for-point rebut the Office's rejection of claim 16. Instead, Applicant
5 submits that the Joco and Norton references, alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the treated end surface and the one or more untreated surfaces of claim 16.

Claim 16

10 Claim 16, as currently amended, recites:

The boreless compressor wheel of claim 15 further comprising one or more pilot surfaces untreated by the cold working process.

Applicant currently amends claim 16 for purposes of clarification only to
15 recite that the one or more surfaces are pilot surfaces. In rejecting claim 15, the Office relies on the Norton reference as disclosing cold treatment and states at page 3, "Norton et al. teaches treating the inner circumference of the bore of a compressor wheel". Applicant submits that this "inner circumference" is a pilot surface for the shaft 92 (see Norton Reference at Fig. 3). Claim 16 explicitly
20 recites that the one or more untreated surfaces are pilot surfaces. Applicant submits that the objective evidence of record is insufficient to support an obviousness rejection of claim 16, as originally presented and as currently amended.

25 *Claim 17*

Claim 17, as currently amended, recites:

The boreless compressor wheel of claim 15 further comprising a shaft inserted at least partially in the joint, the shaft contacting an untreated pilot surface.

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Applicant currently amends claim 17 to recite the shaft contacting an untreated pilot surface. The Norton reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the shaft 92 contacting an untreated pilot surface. Thus, Applicant submits that the objective evidence of record is insufficient to support an obviousness rejection of claim 17, as currently amended.

Rejection under §103(a): Claims 15-17

The Office rejected claims 15-17 as being unpatentable over Heyes (USPN 6,948,913), referred to herein as the Heyes reference, in view of the Norton et al. (USPN 6,164,931), referred to herein as the Norton reference.

While grounds for rejection of independent claim 15 are set forth in the Office Action of March 6, 2006, Applicant submits that grounds for rejection of dependent claim 16 are not stated with particularity. Thus, Applicant cannot point-for-point rebut the Office's rejection of claim 16. Instead, Applicant submits that the Heyes and Norton references, alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the treated end surface and the one or more untreated surfaces of claim 16.

In rejecting claim 15, the Office relies on the Norton reference as disclosing cold treatment and states at page 3, "Norton et al. teaches treating the inner circumference of the bore of a compressor wheel". Applicant submits that this "inner circumference" is a pilot surface for the shaft 92 (see Norton Reference at Fig. 3). Claim 16 explicitly recites that the one or more untreated surfaces are pilot surfaces. Applicant submits that the objective evidence of record is insufficient to support an obviousness rejection of claim 16, as originally presented and as currently amended.

As stated above, Applicant currently amends claim 17 to recite the shaft contacting an untreated pilot surface. The Norton reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the shaft 92 contacting an untreated pilot surface. Thus, Applicant submits that the objective evidence of record is insufficient to support an obviousness rejection of claim 17, as currently amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office indicated that claims 1-14 and 18-25 are allowed.

Conclusion

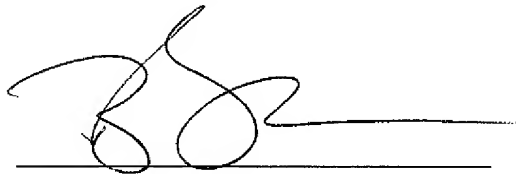
5 Claims 1-25 are pending and believed to be in condition for allowance.
Should any issue remain that prevents allowance and immediate issuance of
the instant application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned
attorney to discuss the unresolved issue.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Lee & Hayes, PLLC
421 W. Riverside Avenue, Suite 500
15 Spokane, WA 99201

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Name: Brian J. Pangrle

Reg. No. 42,973

Phone No. (509) 324-9256 ext. 231

for Honeywell International

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(all correspondence to Honeywell Int'l.)